

CLAIMS

I claim:

1 1. A ramp assembly for a pontoon boat having a deck supported by at least two pontoons,
2 the ramp assembly comprising:
3 a pair of ramp support members attached beneath the deck, each ramp support
4 member having a substantially vertically-oriented surface;
5 at least two rollers attached to the vertically-oriented surface;
6 a ramp having a pair of side rails, one side rail being positioned on each side of a
7 walkway, the side rails each having an upper rail member and a lower rail
8 member joined by a web; and
9 wherein the ramp is rollingly received between the ramp support members such
10 that the rollers are positioned between the upper rail member and the lower
11 rail member.

1 2. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising a plurality of lateral
2 stabilization members connected to the pair of ramp support members.

1 3. A ramp assembly according to claim 1, wherein the ramp support members are z-shaped
2 extrusions.

1 4. A ramp assembly according to claim 1, wherein:

2 the side rails of the ramp have an I-shaped cross section, thereby forming an
3 inboard pocket and an outboard pocket on either side of the web; and
4 the rollers are received by the outboard pockets of the side rails.

1 5. A ramp assembly according to claim 1, wherein:

2 the side rails of the ramp have an I-shaped cross-section, thereby forming an
3 inboard pocket and an outboard pocket on either side of the web;
4 the rollers are received by the outboard pockets of the side rails; and
5 the inboard pockets of the side rails receive a plurality of modular walkway
6 members.

1 6. A ramp assembly according to claim 5, wherein the walkway members are extruded
2 rectangular tubing.

1 7. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising:

2 an endcap leg disposed at an inboard end of the ramp; and
3 a lower ramp hanger connected to the ramp support members, the lower ramp
4 hanger having a hanger slot for receiving the endcap leg of the ramp when
5 the ramp is in an extended position.

1 8. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 an endcap leg disposed at an inboard end of the ramp;
3 an upper ramp hanger connected to the deck, the upper ramp hanger having a
4 hanger slot for receiving the endcap leg of the ramp when the ramp is in an
5 extended position; and
6 wherein a walkway surface of the ramp is substantially flush with an upper surface
7 of the deck when the endcap leg engages the hanger slot.

1 9. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising
2 a handle disposed at an outboard end of the ramp; and
3 a plank shoe pivotally connected to the handle, the plank shoe having an inclined
4 surface for providing a smooth transition between a walkway surface of
5 the ramp and an anchor surface on which the outboard end of the ramp
6 rests when the ramp is in an extended position.

1 10. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising:

2 at least one hand railing;

3 a plurality of support legs pivotally connected to the hand railing;

4 a plurality of railing holes disposed in the ramp;

5 wherein in an assembled position, a portion of the support legs are received by the

6 railing holes and the hand railing is substantially parallel to the walkway

7 surface of the ramp; and

8 wherein in a collapsed position, the support legs are pivoted such to place the

9 support legs adjacent to the hand railing for storage.

- 1 11. A ramp assembly for a pontoon boat having a deck supported by at least two pontoons,
2 the ramp assembly comprising:
3 a pair of ramp support members attached beneath the deck, each ramp support
4 member having a substantially vertically-oriented surface;
5 at least two rollers attached to the vertically-oriented surface;
6 a removable ramp having a pair of side rails, one side rail being positioned on
7 either side of a walkway, the side rails each having an upper rail member
8 and a lower rail member joined by a web;
9 a first deck hanger positioned at the bow of the pontoon boat;
10 a second deck hanger positioned at one of the port side and starboard side of the
11 pontoon boat;
12 wherein the ramp is rollingly received between the ramp support members in a
13 stowed position such that the rollers are positioned between the upper rail
14 member and the lower rail member; and
15 wherein the ramp is adapted to be received by one of the first and second ramp
16 hanger in an extended position, thereby providing the walkway for one of
17 the bow, port side, and starboard side of the pontoon boat.

1 12. A ramp assembly according to claim 11, wherein:

2 the side rails of the ramp have an I-shaped cross-section, thereby forming an
3 inboard pocket and an outboard pocket on either side of the web; and
4 the rollers are received by the outboard pockets of the side rails.

1 13. A ramp assembly according to claim 11, wherein:

2 the side rails of the ramp have an I-shaped cross-section, thereby forming an
3 inboard pocket and an outboard pocket on either side of the web;
4 the rollers are received by the outboard pockets of the side rails; and
5 the inboard pockets of the side rails receive a plurality of modular walkway
6 members.

1 14. A ramp assembly according to claim 13, wherein the walkway members are extruded
2 tubing having a rectangular cross-section.

1 15. A ramp assembly according to claim 11 further comprising:

2 an endcap leg disposed at an inboard end of the ramp; and
3 wherein the endcap leg is received by one of the first hanger and the second
4 hanger when the ramp is placed in the extended position.

1 16. A ramp assembly according to claim 11, wherein the first and second ramp hangers are
2 mounted to the deck such that the ramp is capable of being positioned in the extended
3 position with the walkway substantially flush with the deck.

1 17. A ramp assembly according to claim 11 further comprising:
2 an endcap leg disposed at an inboard end of the ramp;
3 wherein the endcap leg is received by one of the first hanger and the second
4 hanger when the ramp is placed in the extended position; and
5 wherein the first and second ramp hangers are mounted to the deck such that the
6 ramp is capable of being positioned in the extended position with the
7 walkway substantially flush with the deck.

1 18. A ramp assembly according to claim 11 further comprising:
2 at least one hand railing;
3 a plurality of support legs pivotally connected to the hand railing;
4 a plurality of railing holes disposed in the ramp;
5 wherein in an assembled position, a portion of the support legs are received by the
6 railing holes and the hand railing is substantially parallel to the walkway of
7 the ramp; and
8 wherein in a collapsed position, the support legs are pivoted such to place the
9 support legs adjacent to the hand railing for storage.

1 19. A ramp assembly according to claim 11 further comprising:

2 a handle disposed near an outboard end of the ramp; and

3 a plank shoe pivotally connected to the handle, the plank shoe having an inclined
4 surface providing a smooth transition between the walkway surface of the
5 ramp and an anchor surface on which the outboard end of the ramp rests
6 when the ramp is in an extended position.

1 20. A ramp assembly for a pontoon boat having a deck supported by at least two pontoons,
2 the ramp assembly comprising:

3 a ramp having a walkway surface for providing ingress and egress to the pontoon
4 boat;

5 a first deck hanger positioned at the bow of the pontoon boat;

6 a second deck hanger positioned at one of the port side and the starboard side of
7 the pontoon boat;

8 wherein the ramp is capable of being attached to one of the first deck hanger and
9 the second deck hanger; and

10 wherein the ramp is stowable beneath the deck and between the pontoons of the
11 pontoon boat.